

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 01203 041110Z

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 OMB-01 SCCT-02 A-01 M-02 OPR-02

OS-03 EB-11 COME-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /143 W

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P 040710Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0145

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJECT: BOMB EXPLOSION AT WAPDA HEADQUARTERS

REF: LAHORE 1200

1. SUBJECT INCIDENT FULLY REPORTED IN FRONTPAGE STORY  
LAHORE EDITION PAKISTAN TIMES SEPT 4 HEADLINED "BIG  
BLAST AT WAPDA HOUSE." STORY CONFIRMS ESSENTIAL DETAILS  
REPORTED REFTELS WITH FOLLOWING ADDITIONS: BESIDES  
ASADULLAH KHAN, WAPDA DIRECTOR OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
(POWER DISTRIBUTION), BLAST KILLED ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT,  
MAIMED ANOTHER, HOSPITALIZED SEVERAL OTHERS. BUILDING  
CORDONED OFF BY POLICE AND FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE  
(BARRACKED ONLY ONE BLOCK AWAY). POLICE "UNABLE TO  
APPREHEND ANY CULPRITS" AS OF MIDNIGHT SEPT 3-4.

2. NEWS WITHHELD FROM RADIO PAKISTAN LAST NIGHT,  
CARRIED BRIEFLY TODAY IN VERNACULAR BROADCASTS.

3. TODAY'S VERNACULAR PAPERS, CHARACTERISTICALLY,  
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PAGE 02 LAHORE 01203 041110Z

HAVE PLAYED STORY IN MORE SENSATIONAL TERMS WITHOUT

ADDING MUCH CREDIBLE DETAIL. SEVERAL REPORT THAT BOMB WAS TIME DEVICE AND QUITE HEAVY, PERHAPS 200 POUNDS. URDU MASHRIQ (PRO-GOVERNMENT) REPORTS OPINION OF PAK ARMY DEMOLITION EXPERT THAT EXPLOSION CONSISTED OF SEVERAL SYNCHRONIZED DEVICES PACKED IN PLASTIC BAGS AND DETONATED SIMULTANEOUSLY.

4. PAK TIMES TODAY ALSO FRONTPAGES REMARKS OF CHIEF MIN RAMAY RE INCIDENT ON ARRIVAL LAHORE FROM KARACHI LAST EVENING. RAMAY REPORTED TO HAVE ASSERTED "THE BLAST IN WAPDA HOUSE WAS A LINK OF THE SAME CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WERE TAKING PLACE IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER PROVINCE ... SITUATION IN THE PUNJAB WAS CHARGED WITH EXPECTANTY BECAUSE OF SEPT 7, THE DATE FIXED FOR DECISION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE AHMADIYA ISSUE. THE POLITICAL ELEMENTS WHICH WERE ACTIVE IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER HAD TRIED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION TO CAUSE SCARE IN LAHORE BY THE EXPLOSION IN WAPDA HOUSE." CHIEF MIN REPORTED TO HAVE "WARNED THAT SUCH ELEMENTS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN PUNJAB AND HE HAD DIRECTED LAW AND ORDER MACHINERY TO GO INTO FULL OPERATION TO EXPOSE THOSE ELEMENTS." IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION RE SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN, RAMAY STATED THERE "NO CAUSE FOR ALARM AS SUCH TACTICS WERE ADOPTED BY POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN DESPERATION BUT THEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SUCCEED IN THEIR EVIL DESIGNS."

5. SIGNIFICANTLY, PPP PAPER MUSAWAT TODAY FRONTPAGED REPORT THAT "PEOPLE HAVE BEGUN TO SPECULATE THAT EXPLOSION CAUSED BY ELEMENTS WHO THREATEN TO BREAK COUNTRY THROUGH CIVIL WAR." PAPER THEN CITES SPEECHES OF NAP CHIEF KHAN ABDUL WALI KHAN AS ONE ELEMENT, AND QUESTIONS IN THIS CONTEXT WHY WALI KHAN "WHO THREATENS CIVIL WAR IN COUNTRY" CAME TO LAHORE AUG 31 AND REMAINED "MYSTERIOUSLY" UNTIL SEP 3, LEAVING CITY AFTER BLAST AT WAPDA HOUSE. (WALI KHAN DID VISIT LAHORE FOR NAPSND UDF MEETINGS AND MAY HAVE LEFT AFTER BLAST, THOUGH ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE APPEARED IN GUJRANWALA SEP 3.)

6. COMMENTS: WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THAT RAMAY COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LAHORE 01203 041110Z

HAVE RECEIVED CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF LINKAGE BETWEEN WAPDA EXPLOSION AND HOSTILE ACTIVITIES IN BALUCHISTAN AND FRONTIER IN SHORT TIME BEFORE ARRIVAL LAHORE SEP 3. JUMPING TO SUCH CONCLUSION WOULD APPEAR TO ILLUSTRATE PARANOIA WITH WHICH AUTHORITIES HAVE COME TO FEAR VIOLENCE IN FRONTIER AREAS, OR THEIR READINESS TO SEIZE ANY PRETEXT TO CASTIGATE IT. ATTEMPT BY PPP ORGAN MUSAWAT TO CONNECT WALI KHAN SPECIFICALLY WITH INCIDENT IS IN CHARACTER. IMPLICIT LINKAGE WITH

CONTINUING STRONG EMOTIONAL FEELING OVER AHMADIYA ISSUE IN  
PUNJAB ALSO HAS OMINOUS IMPLICATIONS.

7. IN ABSENCE OF ANY EVIDENCE ALONG SUCH LINES, WE  
INCLINED TAKE MORE OBVIOUS VIEW THAT EXPLOSION AT WAPDA  
HEADQUARTERS WAS DIRECT MANIFESTATION AGAINST THAT  
ORGANIZATION FOR SOME PRESENTLY UNKNOWN REASON -- PERHAPS  
THE ACT OF A FANATIC INSPIRED BY MOUNTING PUBLIC CRITICISM  
(ALBEIT MISGUIDED) OVER TARBELA PROBLEM, SYMBOLIZED  
DOMESTICALLY BY WAPDA; OR EVEN THE PRODUCT OF HOSTILITY  
AND JEALOUSIES OF PARTICULAR INTERESTS AGAINST WAPDA.  
WE ARE NOT , HOWEVER, PREPARED DISCOUNT ENTIRELY POSSIBILITY  
THAT POLITICAL DISRUPTIONISTS COULD HAVE PERPETRATED ATTACK  
TO EMBARRASS GOVERNMENT AND FOMENT DISSENSION OVER TARBELA  
ISSUE AND GENERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH WHICH WAPDA HAPPENS  
TO BE ASSOCIATED IN PUBLIC MIND.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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